aspects involved in the development of hydro schemes. On the basis of this evaluation, the schemes have been graded in A, B and C categories in order of their priority for development for each basin. The basin-wise details of ranking are as under:

No. of Schemes: Basin and Category-wise

River Basin	A	B	C	Total
Indus	11	51	17	79
Ganga	20	54	1	75
Central Indian	3	9	1	13
East Flowing Rivers	11	26	2	39
West Flowing Rivers	1	10	14	25
Brahmaputra	52	97	19	168
GRAND TOTAL	98	247	54	399
INSTALLED CAPACITY MW	15650MW	69830 MW	21420 MW	106,900 MW

This study would enable potential hydro developers to take up detailed survey and investigation, cost estimates and tentative tariff for the most attractive and viable schemes in each basin in a phased manner.

(d) Hydro electric projects of 16,291 MW and 22,364 MW have already been identified tentatively for benefits in the Xth and XIth Plan respectively. Their execution would, however, depend on obtaining the statutory clearances and tying up of necessary funds.

Proposal of waiving a percentage of interest surcharge owed by SEBs

1771. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to waive a percentage of interest surcharge owed by different State Electricity Boards;

(b) if so, the names of three top beneficiary State Electricity Boards, who stand to benefit by Centre's above gesture; and

(c) whether Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board will get benefit from this; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) A Conference of Chief Ministers/Power Ministers held in March 2001 under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister resolved that an Expert Group would be set up to recommend a one time settlement of all Power Sector past dues to Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) and dues from CPSUs to State Power Utilities. The Expert Group was set up under the Chairmanship of Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia. The Group proposed a scheme of settlement of outstanding dues linked to a mechanism that would ensure payment of current dues in future. The recommendations of the Group, *inter-alia*, included securitisation of the outstanding dues through bonds issued by the respective State Governments. The recommendations included waiver of 50% of surcharge/interest accrued on outstandings. The High Level Empowered Group of Chief Ministers who accepted the recommendations of the Expert Group has suggested an increase in the waiver from 50% to 60%.

(b) The scheme would be available to those states which agree to sign a tripartite agreement with the Central Government and the Reserve Bank of India. As such, it is premature to list the top beneficiaries at this stage.

(c) Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board had outstanding dues of Rs.1178 crores to CPSUs of Ministry of Power, Department of Coal, Atomic energy and Ministry of Railways as on 28.2.2001. This included a surcharge of around Rs.544.49 crores. On implementation of the scheme for one time settlement of dues 60% of this surcharge would be waived.

Spectrum Power Project in Andhra Pradesh

1772: SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an investigation into the Spectrum Power Project in Andhra Pradesh shows the extent of corruption, institutional rot and administrative collapse that has corroded the system and highlights the bizarre risks of doing business in India;

(b) several public sector banks led by SBI and seven institutions led by IDBI are under threat of ending up with large bad debts on their books; and

(c) if so, what action Government is taking on this issue?